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BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE
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In Cooperation with State and Federal Agencies

COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 26, 1945
(Fifth Cotton Insect Survey Report for 1945)

The weather was more favorable and condition of cotton improved during the week. However, temperatures are still too low for best growth. Much replanting has been necessary and many fields need cultivation.

BOLL WEEVIL

TEXAS: The increase in boll weevils during the week was moderate.

Square examinations in 157 fields in 15 southern counties averaged 17.7% weevil infestation. Ten percent of the fields were not infested; 36% had less than 10% infestation; 30% ranged from 11 to 25% infestation, 15% ranged from 26 to 50% infestation; and 9% of the fields had more than 50% of the squares punctured. The heaviest infestations were in Hidalgo County with an average of 36% and in Cameron County with 24%. Damaging infestations were also found as far north as Nueces County.

Calcium arsenate dust was being used in 42 of the fields examined in 6 counties.

Plant examinations in 131 fields in 25 counties where the cotton was too small for squares showed an average of 1.3 weevils per 100 plants or about 130 per acre.

Emergence to date in hibernation cages at Waco is 3.7% which is about one-third the emergence to this date in 1941 but much heavier than in other recent years.

LOUISIANA: Some cotton planted week before last near Tallulah, La., was not yet up to a stand. Very little growth due to cool weather and many fields need cultivation. No weevils were found in the few fields examined. Emergence in hibernation cages to date is 5.9% which is higher than in any of the past 14 years except 1941 and 1937.

MISSISSIPPI: Much replanting has been necessary and crop is late in the Delta. No weevils have been found in the fields around Stoneville.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Conditions were favorable for farm work and crops are in a good state of cultivation. Weevil emergence at Florence dropped off considerably during the week. A total of 208 weevils have been removed from the 1/5-acre trap plot thus far this season. This compares with 49 weevils in 1944; 81 in 1943; 175 in 1942, and 33 in 1941. Emergence of 70 weevils in the hibernation cages this week makes the total 279 to date as compared to 105 weevils in 1944, 207 in 1943, 193 in 1942, and 2,576 in 1941.

(over)

GEORGIA: Weevils have been found on plants in considerable numbers in most of the southern counties. Cotton is late but will be squaring in the southern section around June 1.

COTTON APHID

The aphid situation improved somewhat and no serious infestations requiring control have been reported. Of the 194 fields examined in Texas, light infestations were present in 185 fields, medium infestations in 7 fields, and heavy infestations in only 2 fields. Lady-bird beetles and larvae have become very abundant around Waco and aphids have practically disappeared in many fields of April planted cotton. A few heavily infested fields were found around Tallulah but infestation is generally light. Predators and parasites of the aphids are also increasing at Florence and only slight injury was reported.

COTTON FLEA HOPPER

Reports were received on 284 fields in 34 Texas counties from Waco to Brownsville. No flea hoppers were found in 33% of the fields; less than 10 flea hoppers per 100 terminal buds were found in 50% of the fields; and more than 10 per 100 buds were found in 17% of the fields. Flea hoppers are causing less damage in the lower Valley than last year.

Insecticides were being used in 17 of the fields examined in Hidalgo County and in 14 of the fields examined in 6 other counties.

BOLLWORM

Bollworms were observed in 14 fields in 8 counties in southern Texas. At the Waco, Texas, field laboratory moths had emerged from 43% of the bollworms in the hibernation cages by May 26. This is considerably higher than the emergence during any recent year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Thrip injury to seedling cotton continued rather heavy in fields bordering small grain near Florence. Grain is maturing and harvesting is underway. Damage from thrips was found in many fields of the oldest cotton around Tallulah. Thrips seem more abundant than usual in early planted cotton in the Mississippi Delta.

Grasshoppers are causing considerable injury to cotton adjacent to grain fields at Florence, S. C., and were also reported from Gonzales County, Texas.

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